

# CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



**May 2017**

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## FROM THE FIELD

### Shepherding Kids Toward Preparedness



*Fred the Preparedness Dog greets children at a festival in El Dorado, KS.*

On a stormy day in Kansas in 2013, Michael McNulty's German Shepherd Dog, Fred, jumped into a bathtub to take shelter. The dog had seen McNulty's family shelter in the bathtub during area weather warnings, so he knew it was a safe place. McNulty took a picture of Fred that went viral, and ever since, the two have been spreading the message of emergency preparedness throughout the state.

Fred and McNulty visit schools, fairs, and other community events to teach kids about preparedness and to encourage them to take the message home.

Fred carries a pack filled with an emergency kit to the visits. "Kids help unpack the kit and see what's inside. As they take out the items, we talk about each one: the flashlight, the maps, the contact numbers, the hand wipes, the first-aid kit, etc. We also talk about making sure family pets are accounted for in [a family's] emergency plan," says McNulty. He goes on to describe how the visit impacts the kids after meeting the Preparedness Dog. After meeting Fred, kids "go to their parents and say, 'there was a dog at school today, and he had all this stuff. Why don't we have



stuff?” McNulty believes that exposure and curiosity amongst children can “kick-start” efforts in the home.

Fred is the official mascot for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Preparedness Program. Even if you are not in Kansas, Fred can help you to inspire others to be more prepared. Visit the “Fred the Preparedness Dog” [website](#) for lessons and activities—such as quizzes and a coloring book—that can get kids excited about preparedness.

You can also download [Fred’s free iPad and iPhone app](#) to get games that emphasize family and pet preparedness for all types of emergencies. Want to track Fred’s latest adventures? Follow him on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## Happy Campers Become Engaged Leaders



*Campers forge strong bonds with each other through games.*

The Los Angeles-region of the American Red Cross serves more than 88 cities nationwide. Each August, its five chapters work together to put on a week-long Leadership Development Camp (LDC) for nearly one hundred high school and college students. Held at Pilgrim Pines in the San Bernardino Mountains, LDC teaches the fundamentals of being an effective leader.

The overnight camp format emphasizes time management, goal setting, public speaking, diversity/cultural understanding, and marketing skills through a hands-on, interactive approach. Want to see what it’s like for yourself? Watch clips from LDC 2015 and 2016 [here](#).

Jasmine Han, a first-time camper in 2016 who went on to serve as Youth Executive Board President of her local American Red Cross chapter in the year following camp, described her experience, “What surprised me the most was that the sessions...were organized by youth themselves. [And] sessions were never lecture-based. We were presented information either with a skit or taught vital leadership skills through activities. Every session had new information, and I was always left amazed by the things I learned.”



*Campers build confidence through performing.*

After a successful year as president of a high school club, Jasmine reflects on what LDC taught her, such as, how to plan meetings and events, delegate tasks, work with a team, and fundraise, among other skills. Aside from strong friendships with fellow campers, what she values most from her time at LDC is that she can now speak in front of an audience with confidence.

LDC’s core purpose is to create a community of youth leaders who feel empowered to take active roles to make a difference. Want to attend LDC or know a student who’d be a good fit? Make sure to **apply by July 7**. Get details and read camper testimonials [here](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Apply for the 2017 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards Today**



The application period for the [2017 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards](#) is now open.

The awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward strengthening their community to prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster.

This year, the awards feature the **Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness** category to showcase youth preparedness efforts. Applicants can apply for up to two categories. The other competitive categories include:

- Outstanding Citizen Corps Council
- Community Preparedness Champions
- Awareness to Action
- Technological Innovation
- John D. Solomon Whole Community Preparedness Award
- Outstanding Private Sector Initiatives
- Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives
- Outstanding Citizen Corps Partner Program
- Prepareathon in Action

To be considered for this year's awards, send all [applications](#) to [fema-icp-awards@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-icp-awards@fema.dhs.gov) by **May 30, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. EDT** and feature program activities occurring between January 1, 2016 and May 30, 2017. For more information on how to apply, visit: [www.ready.gov/preparedness-awards](http://www.ready.gov/preparedness-awards).

## Coastal County in New Jersey Adopts Flood Awareness Curriculum



Monmouth County, New Jersey is making a “big splash” in flood safety and awareness! County schools recently adopted the High Water Mark (HWM) initiative and posted nearly 100 signs throughout 14 towns and 2 federal sites to educate residents and visitors about flood risks in specific areas. Signs mark the flood levels from past severe storms—including Superstorm Sandy.

The HWM initiative is more than simply posting signs—it's about education and resilience. Various activities were designed to target different grade levels and to complement math, science, and reasoning skills that are already being emphasized in each grade. For instance, a math homework activity provides data about special flood hazard areas and then asks questions about percentages and other calculations. Each activity stresses the importance of being prepared for floods, and students are encouraged to take action to know and reduce risks.

Your local schools can jump into the HWM initiative! Ask questions and get tips when you email Vincent Brown at [Vincent.Brown@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Vincent.Brown@fema.dhs.gov). You can also learn more about floods by visiting FEMA's [Flood Preparation and Safety website](#).

## Get Involved in Hurricane Preparedness Week 2017





It only takes one storm to change your life and community. The time to prepare for storm season is before it begins. Hurricane Preparedness Week is a great time to prepare for a tropical storm or hurricane. The National Weather Service will issue daily tips and resources to help you, your family, and your community get ready. You will be encouraged to take action to help lower your risk of injury and potential damage to your home with tips like how to develop an evacuation plan, assemble disaster supplies, and schedule an insurance check-up. Learn how you can join the #OnlyTakesOne and #HurricaneStrong movement [here](#).

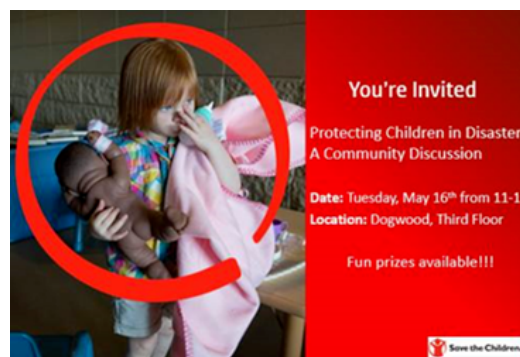
## Register for Free Hurricane Webinar



Do you know teachers or students in 4th–6th grades who live near the coast or are interested in weather? Encourage them to register for a free, live webinar on May 10th at 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time. The National Hurricane Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are teaming up with the Hurricanes: Science and Society team at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography to raise awareness about hurricanes before the 2017 hurricane season begins. Schools/classes must register in advance. Learn more and register [here](#).

## Join Discussion on Children's Needs at NVOAD

Save the Children would like to invite you to a special discussion at the NVOAD Conference (Houston, TX) on how the VOAD community can work together to address children's needs in emergencies. The conversation will include gaps in children's disaster programming, partners in the field, and how you can champion children's issues in your own community. For more information, email Cameron Lewis at [clewis@savechildren.org](mailto:clewis@savechildren.org).



## RESOURCES

### American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign

**Organization:** American Red Cross

**Audience:** All ages

**Topics:** General preparedness, Fire

**Website:** <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/prevent-home-fire#Resources>

**Description:** This website covers a wide range of fire safety topics, such as how to prevent and prepare for home fires, pet fire safety, fire safety for kids, fire safety equipment, what to do if a fire starts, and many others.

## Children and Climate Change E-Learning Module

**Organization:** UNICEF

**Audience:** Government officials and development partners

**Topics:** Climate change

**Website:** <https://unccelearn.org/?lang=en>

**Description:** This free, online course presents how children and youth can be impacted by climate change. It also addresses how to boost their resilience. The module takes approximately two hours to complete.

## HERricane Arlington

**Organization:** Arlington, Virginia

**Audience:** Girls aged 13–17

**Topics:** General preparedness, Leadership skills, Professional development

**Website:** <https://departments.arlingtonva.us/oem/herrricane/>

**Description:** This week-long camp and professional development opportunity encourages young women to pursue careers in emergency management.

## Keeping Your Friends and Family Healthy

**Organization:** Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

**Audience:** Youth

**Topics:** General preparedness

**Description:** These free, downloadable, and printable materials empower youth to focus on community health resilience in order to strengthen readiness for all residents.

- [Youth Activity Guide](#)
- [Youth Brochure](#)
- [Youth Infographic](#)
- [Youth Activity Sheet](#)

## Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters

**Organization:** FEMA

**Audience:** Emergency managers and children's program directors

**Topics:** General preparedness

**Website:** <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-366.a>

**Description:** These seven lessons and a resources toolkit address how to meet the unique needs that arise among children as a result of a disaster or emergency. The courses span six hours and there are no prerequisites. Counts as .6 continuing education units.

## CONTACT US

**Email:** [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov)

**Online:** <http://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness>

**Archived Issues:** [Click here](#)

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Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).

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